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CULTURAL RESOURCES LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH FLOOD
CONTROL PROJECT AR (U) MINNESOTA UNIV MINNEAPOLIS DEPT
OF ANTHROPOLOGY J SCHAAF 01 JAN 76 DACW37-76-M-1143

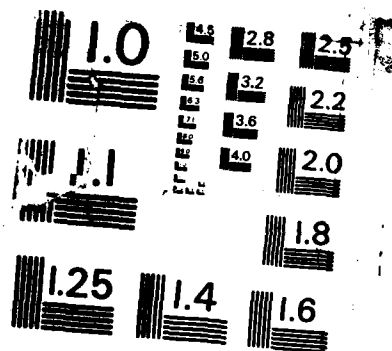
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<p>This literature and records search was conducted to determine if known historic and/or prehistoric sites within the flood control project area at the Redwood River between river miles 64.7 and 72.6, exist and to estimate the potential of additional sites. The literature and records searched indicated no recorded prehistoric sites in the project area; however, archaeological survey and testing program should be conducted because of the extremely high site potential along the Redwood River.</p> <p>The only recorded historic building in the project area, the Lyon County Court House in Marshall, will not be affected by the proposed action.</p>					
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CULTURAL RESOURCES LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH
FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT AREA
REDWOOD RIVER AT MARSHALL, MN.

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US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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Submitted by: JEANNE SCHAAF

1 January 1976

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LITERATURE AND RECORDS SEARCH: REDWOOD RIVER AT MARSHALL, MN.

PURPOSE:

This literature and records search was conducted to "determine if known historic and/or prehistoric sites are within the project area and (to estimate) the potential for the existence of additional sites" as stated in the agreed terms of the Purchase Order.

METHODS:

The state and county files of the Anthropology Department of the University of Minnesota were searched, as were the county files of the Minnesota Historical Society. Pertinent published and unpublished literature was researched. Contact was made with Larry Halverson, an amateur archaeologist in Marshall, Mn. to determine if prehistoric artifacts had been recovered in the Marshall area, which could indicate the presence of sites unrecorded in the State or University files.

The National Register of Historic Places was consulted finding no sites listed from within the project area.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA:

The flood-control-project-study area involves the course and flood plain of the Redwood River between river miles 64.7 and 72.6. (This includes the city of Marshall, Mn.) In this area, the Redwood River flows in a small channel across the lowland plain of Lyon County. The general topography ranges from undulating to gently rolling to

nearly level land. The predominant vegetation in the project area is domesticated crop land with only a few small plots of native prairie remaining. The wooded river corridor is mainly a community of Ulmus americana, Fraxinus americana, Populus deltoides, Salix sp., Quercus macrocarpa and Acer negundo associated with limited numbers of Acer saccharinum and Populus tremuloides.

FINDINGS:

Prehistoric: There are no recorded prehistoric sites within the proposed project area. Contact was made with Larry Halverson of Marshall, who is a collector of artifacts. He concentrates his searches in the Camden State Park area and has not recovered any artifacts from within the project area.

Records show that just upstream of the project area, near Lynd, Mn., there is a destroyed burial mound located on the west bank of the Redwood River. Parker I. Pierce wrote of the Lynd area in 1896:

At Lynd there were about 1500 acres of timber, consisting of oak, bass, and sugar maple. This timber was paradise for the Indians (Eastern Dakota, Sisseton tribe) furnishing shelter and fuel for winter and a feeding ground for their ponies.... Their burial places were the oaks that stood on the bluffs.... The older settlers can recollect seeing the burial places in Lyons township, adjoining the town of Lynd. There is a mound the settlers call the knob, which is no doubt an ancient burial place. (Possibly this is the mound recorded as destroyed). This knob looks as though the dirt had been carried and laid as systematically as for some observatory or look-out place; for one can stand there and see for miles in each direction... This mound has been nearly ruined by wolf hunters. There have been human bones found when digging for wolves.

(Lyons County Reporter, Dec. 26, 1896)

Roughly six miles upstream of the project's southernmost study limit, is a burial mound, located in Camden State Park along the Redwood River. This mound was excavated and a vessel recovered was of the Blue Earth focus (a pottery type of the late prehistoric period, ca. 1400 AD). The presence of a burial mound or mounds usually indicates the presence of a nearby village site; hilltops flanking the park have produced projectile points, possibly from an associated but yet unrecorded village.

In 1951, Delroy Christopherson of Russell, Mn. (?), discovered parts of two pottery vessels and bones (possibly human) approximately 2 1/2 miles northeast of Russell, Mn., or approximately 10 miles upstream of the project's southernmost study limit. L.A. Wilford reported that one of the vessels was an early Woodland form, dating from ca. 500 AD.

There are no recorded prehistoric sites along the Redwood River downstream of the project area, although the site potential is equally as high as the upstream reach. The paucity of recorded data can be attributed to the absence of intensive site surveys in this region.

Historic: The cities of Marshall and Lynd (which is approximately 7 miles southwest of Marshall) were the population centers of Lyon County throughout much of the county's early history. Thus many of the county's historical resources are located in this area.

In 1835, Joseph LaFramboise, a trader for the American Fur Company, settled near Lynd; being the first white settler in the county.

In 1855, James Lynd established a trading post in the Lynd woods along the Redwood River. This post burned down in 1857 and what is believed to be the location of its original site is preserved in the

NE1/4 of Section 33 of the Lynd township in Camden State Park.

Settlement of the county proceeded very slowly during the early 1800's,; declined after the Sioux uprising in 1862; and did not recover and increase until after 1877.

Upper Lynd was established in 1867 and was the county seat until the seat was changed to Marshall in 1873. The Minnesota Historical Society historical-site-inventory includes the Lyon County Court House (built in 1895) which is located on West Main Street in Marshall. The Court House was not nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because a clock tower has been removed from the building.

The proposed flood control project does not require the removal or disturbance of any buildings in the city of Marshall , and will not affect the Court House, and will probably not affect any historical structures not yet inventoried.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The literature and records searched indicated that there are no recorded prehistoric sites in the project area. The only recorded historic building in the project area, the Lyon County Court House in Marshall, will not be affected by the proposed actions.

Despite the absence of known prehistoric sites in the area to be impacted by the project, an archaeological survey and testing program must be conducted because of the extremely high site potential along the Redwood River. This area has not been intensively surveyed and the records alone cannot be relied upon as an accurate indicator of the project's impact on the cultural resources. Without a survey, the project may, in all probability, destroy important archaeological (and historical)

sites. The known archaeological sites just upstream of the project area provide evidence of far reaching cultural interaction and exchange occurring from at least 500 AD and continuing throughout the prehistory of this region. Further information is necessary to learn when and how this cultural diffusion occurred, and what role it had in shaping Minnesota prehistory. For this reason, in part, it is necessary that an archaeological survey be conducted; to preclude the possibility that the proposed flood control project may destroy sites that could provide valuable information.

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County files of the Minnesota Historical Society.

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